

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 15 and 21 were previously presented.

Claims 2-14 and 16-20 are original.

Claims 22 is currently amended.

Upon entry of the amendment claims 1-22 will be active.

The amendment to claim 22 is supported by claim 22 as previously presented.

No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Vanoy for allowing claims 1-14.

The office has rejected claims 15-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) over Schwefer (WO 01/51181 counterpart to US 2003/0143141). The office also rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 15 involves an apparatus for reducing the content of NO_x and N₂O in gases. The apparatus contains two catalyst beds through which NO_x and N₂O containing gas flow and a device for introducing a gaseous reducing agent into the stream of the NO_x and N₂O containing gas located between the two catalyst beds. The device between the catalyst bed contains a mixer through which the gas that has flowed through the first catalyst bed is passed and a feed line for reducing agent which opens into the space downstream of the first catalyst bed and before or into the mixer. Applicants submit that this feature distinguishes the claimed apparatus over Schwefer; and therefore, Schwefer would not have rendered the claimed apparatus unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b).

Schwefer describes a method for removal of NO_x and N₂O in process gases. The method involves an apparatus with a catalyst bed with two reaction zones and an apparatus for introduction of NH₃ gas between the first and second zone, (see paragraph [0027]). However, Schwefer provides no other details of the apparatus for introduction of NH₃ gas. Specifically, Schwefer does not teach or suggest a mixer for mixing the gas that has flowed through the first catalyst bed and the reducing agent prior to flowing into the second catalyst bed. Because Schwefer does not teach or suggest all the recitations of the claimed apparatus, the claimed apparatus would not have been anticipated or obvious over Schwefer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the office withdraw the rejection of claims 15-21 under U.S.C. § 102 (b) over Schwefer.

Finally, Applicants note that claim 22 has been amended such that claim 22 is free of the criticisms outlined on page 2 of the office action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the office withdraw the rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In light of the remarks above, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve in any way to advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Office is authorized to charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 09600-00026-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: June 11, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Donald K. Drummond,
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